

Remarks

The present amendment responds to the final Official Action mailed on May 3, 2004. The Official Action rejected claims 2 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103 based on "Applicant's admitted prior art" in view of Pye, Injection Moulding Design, Kent, Great Britain, George Goodwin Publishers 1978, pp. 236 and 237, TP1150P91978 ("Injection Molding Design"), Germany OLS 3932248A1 dated 4/5/1990 (Germany 3932248), and Japanese Patent Publication No. Sho 61-73465, published May 19, 1986 ("Japan 61-73465"). The Official Action stated that claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As discussed below, in a telephone interview the Examiner also indicated that claim 13 would be allowable if amended to include the limitations of claim 3. To this end, claims 2 and 13 have been amended to include the limitations of claim 3. Claims 1, 3-12, 14 and 15 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 2 and 13 are presently pending and stand in order for allowance.

Telephonic Interview

Examiner Lopez called the undersigned on Friday, April 30, 2004 to indicate that claim 3 is allowable, and that claims 2 and 13 would be allowable if claim 3 was incorporated into them. The Examiner also advised that unless the Applicants agreed to such amendments, he would issue a final Office Action based on Fig. 4 of the recently submitted Japan 61-73465 in combination with other previously identified prior art. The undersigned then telephoned the Examiner on Monday, May 3rd in advance of the Examiner's requested 10:30 AM deadline to advise that counsel for Applicants had not yet been able to obtain a decision by the Applicants on the Examiner's proposal. No exhibits were shown and no demonstrations were conducted.

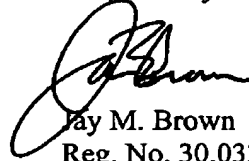
Indications of Allowability

The conclusion of the final Official Action stated that claim 3 would be allowable if such claim was amended to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner stated the same as to claim 13 by telephone on April 30th. Having now been able to confirm the Applicants' instructions, each of claims 2 and 13 have been amended to incorporate the limitations recited in claim 3 and accordingly are in order for allowance.

Conclusion

The presently pending claims, as amended, appearing to define over the applied references, withdrawal of the present rejections and prompt allowance are requested. Given the final nature of the Official Action, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone to expedite resolution of any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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